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Marion County Prosecutor's Office launches the 'BEST Tip of the Week'

Weekly update includes burglary prevention tip, 'Sentencing spotlight'

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced the launch of the "BEST Tip of the Week" today, in an effort to engage the public about burglary prevention and education. The "BEST Tip of the Week" is named for the Burglary Enforcement Strategy Team, which is a part of the Office's Community Prosecution Division. BEST is funded by a grant from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Each Monday, the Prosecutor's Office will use its social media platforms to share the "BEST Tip of the Week." Tips will range from burglary prevention strategies to online safety, as well as feature upcoming BEST meetings and trainings.

"The 'BEST Tip of the Week' is a way for our community prosecutors to directly connect with citizens about how to prevent burglaries and be on the lookout for suspicious activity in their neighborhoods," said Prosecutor Curry.

The Community Prosecution Division's BEST team is comprised of two deputy prosecutors who work at the neighborhood level to proactively address burglary-related crimes through prosecution and prevention initiatives. BEST prosecutors also work hand in hand with the prosecutors and paralegals located in IMPD's district offices to vertically prosecute burglaries, as part of their efforts to address crime and other quality of life issues.

"Burglaries have a particularly negative effect on our community, and can shatter a feeling of safety and well-being that every neighborhood needs in order to grow and thrive," Prosecutor Curry continued. "I hope citizens pay close attention to our 'BEST Tip of the Week' initiative, as it is a direct way they can help deter future burglaries in their neighborhoods."

In conjunction with the "BEST Tip of the Week", MCPO also is launching a "Sentencing Spotlight." The "Sentencing Spotlight" will highlight specific criminals with upcoming sentencing hearings and encourages citizens to attend those hearings as part of the Community Prosecution Division's Court Watch program.

"Our Court Watch program gives citizens a voice in the criminal justice system, allowing them to directly communicate to judges that these crimes impact entire neighborhoods and that these defendants should be sentenced to the fullest extent of the law," Prosecutor Curry said.

The first "Sentencing Spotlight" features Donnisha Taylor, who pled guilty in March to two counts of attempted robbery. Taylor, along with two others, was approaching women in parking lots at the Castleton and Glendale Malls, trying to rob them. She will be sentenced on Tuesday, April 19 at 1:30 p.m. in Criminal Court 22 at the City-County Building.

BEST prosecutors are available to provide burglary prevention training to neighborhood and community groups, as well as faith-based organizations. Last year, BEST prosecutors hosted eleven forums and taught more than 300 residents. To learn more about scheduling a BEST forum, please contact Jayson McGrath at 327-5606 (Jayson.McGrath@indy.gov), or Daphne Whitmire at 327-1420 (Daphne.Whitmire@indy.gov).